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**FOR
IMMEDIATE
RELEASE**

Lebanon VA Medical Center Chosen to be Innovation Site
Selection Will Provide Grant Money and Creative Opportunities

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LEBANON, Pa. – Officials at Lebanon VA Medical Center (Lebanon VAMC) are proud to announce they were recently selected by the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) as one of 22 sites making up the VA Innovators Network. The program encourages the development of new treatment techniques, streamlining administrative tasks and improving customer experience.

Each innovation site is encouraged to create innovative treatment methods, which if successful, will be shared with the network of medical centers around the country. The selection requirements were based on a review of 12 parameters, including: proposed Veteran-centered approach, plans to empower and engage employees and collaboration with the community. Lebanon VAMC now has 2 innovation specialists on site who will oversee the medical center's innovation program.

“Lebanon VAMC prides itself on excellence in all we do and providing the highest quality care to South Central Pennsylvania's Veterans,” said acting medical center director Margaret G. Wilson. “Inherently, excellence and improving the high-quality care we provide Veterans involves innovation and forward thinking and I'm proud we have been recognized for our potential to innovate moving the VA forward.”

This new designation also allows the local VA medical center to be eligible for additional annual grant money as part of the Spark-Seed-Spread Innovation Funding Program that awards grants ranging from \$10,000 to \$200,000 based on project success. As a part of a recent competitive process for this program, Lebanon VAMC staff submitted 24 pioneering ideas for grants.

Ultimately, four Lebanon VAMC innovation ideas were awarded grants through the program's recent competitive process that included several higher-level reviews. Grant awardees include: Joe Getway and Elizabeth Fenstermacher, who proposed the Psychosocial Intervention Team; Ashley Klick, who proposed a redesign of the submission process for application materials for provider and nursing staff; Amber Reesman, who proposed a way-finding and informational kiosk system for Veterans; and Jason Smeltz, who proposed redesigning the Veteran appointment reminder letters to improve clarity of information.

The VA Innovators Network began as a pilot in early 2015 and seeks to build and empower a community of VA employees who are actively engaged in moving the agency forward. This community facilitates collaboration, and enables colleagues to share ideas, challenges opportunities, and to test and validate best practices. The Innovators Network Program offers an interactive environment for VA employees to test new ideas, and join forces with stakeholders across the Veteran community to improve the way VA serves Veterans.

The Lebanon VA Medical Center is one of 168 medical centers in the nation with the sole purpose of providing world-class medical care to America's veterans. If you are veteran, you may be eligible to receive care and benefits from the U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs. To learn more, call 717-228-6000.

For more information about the Lebanon VA Medical Center, visit www.lebanon.va.gov, like us on Facebook at www.facebook.com/VALebanon, or follow us on Twitter at www.twitter.com/VALebanon.

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